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BUSHNELL BRIEFS YATRON SUBCOMMITTEE ON JAMAICA

Deputy Assistant Secretary Bushnell briefed members of the House Inter-American Affairs Subcommittee on the situation in Jamaica today. The session was attended by three Republicans - Lagomarsino, Gilman, and Guyer. Bushnell explained conditions and the political climate in Jamaica at present just prior to the announcement of general elections. With the assistance of Country Director Rob Warne he also provided much in the way of socio-economic background to put the issue into perspective. The Members appeared to be convinced that the State Department is doing everything possible under the circumstances to be on top of the situation. The extent of Cuban involvement in Jamaican affairs was discussed as was the need of the Jamaican government to reestablish business confidence and rebuild that country's crippled economy. Bushnell explained that the Administration and Congress face two problems: a) whether elections are actually held and how honestly carried out; and b) if the government follows IMF guidelines how to provide sufficient financial assistance to help Jamaica on the road to economic recovery.

The Congressman asked whether the State Department could support a joint resolution being put forward by the Subcommittee congratulating Jamaica on its National Day and supporting free elections. Bushnell had no problems with the draft but suggested that the resolution remain a Congressional initiative in order to have the greatest impact.

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